

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA  
**MINUTES - TOWN BOARD MEETING– May 20, 2025**  
6:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Thomas Moran – Deputy Supervisor  
Ronald Chapman, Michael Donegan, Daniel Poné, – Council Members  
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk  
Warren Bader – Town Attorney  
E. John Whitney – Deputy Highway Superintendent  
Roy Reehil – County Legislator  
Christene Kieffer – Town Historian  
Heidi Tompkins – Tug Hill Commission

Absent: Frank Tomaino - Supervisor

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 6:00 pm Mr. Moran as Deputy Supervisor will facilitate the meeting tonight, the town board meeting was then called to order with the pledge of allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Mura told the board he was able to add 28 veteran names to the monument at the David C. Webb Park at Taft Bay. It was a town wide effort Mr. Mura worked with the American Legion and the VFW in order to complete the project. The monument has been cleaned; the company did a great job adding the new names. Mr. Mura encouraged residents to stop by and take a look.

**HISTORIAN:**

Mrs. Kieffer gave the following report:

- Busy going to state and county meetings.
- Applied for a grant for a historical marker for the glass factory store in Bernhards Bay, also the Town will be getting the Frenchmans' Island marker repainted and placed in a better location for viewing.
- Mrs. Kieffer is requesting space in the new building for documents, the Town has very little actual documents on hand as there was never official space and past historians have kept them in their homes. Ms. Kieffer believes so much information has been lost.
- Record Management Officer (RMO), Town Clerk, Mrs. Haynes. When documents are being destroyed, all listed documents should be signed off by not only the RMO but another person, which can be the department head, town supervisor or the historian. This is to make sure historical documents are not destroyed.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

**WASTEWATER:**

Neither Mr. Clark nor Mr. Powers from Barton & Loguidice could be in attendance tonight, they sent the following report that was given out to members of the public. Mr. Moran asked if anyone had any questions, there were none.

**CONSTANTIA NORTH SHORE SEWER PROJECT**

**A. Constantia Sewer Project Progress:**

- ✓ 2025 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) complete
- ✓ SEQR Review complete
- ✓ Increase to Project Authorization (Maximum amount to be expended) complete
- ✓ NYSEFC has indicated that SOCRIS must have funding and be underway before Constantia's project will be eligible for funding.

Upcoming items:

- CCF Working on application to NYS Comptroller's office
- B&L will revise PER's and submit funding applications for this year, although it is most likely they would be targeted for the 2026 round. SOCRIS PER and funding applications submitted this year
- Submit PER by May 30<sup>th</sup> to NYSEFC
- Submit various other funding applications later this summer (not yet announced)

**B. SOCRIS Study Progress:**

- ✓ SOCRIS PER complete, County completed SEQR
- ✓ SOCRIS PER will be revised by May 30th to include portions of the Constantia collection system and Hastings collection within the SOCRIS Project.
- ✓ NYSEFC has indicated that SOCRIS must have funding and be underway before Constantia's project will be eligible for funding.

Upcoming items:

- B&L will be revising the SOCRIS PER prior to May 30 Report submission deadline.
- Discussing IMA to position SOCRIS project for IMG Grant
- Submit PER by May 30<sup>th</sup> to NYSEFC
- C. Submit various other funding applications later this summer (not yet announced)

**D. TARGET FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:**

- NYSEFC Base WIIA:

- Project is eligible for up to 25% of net project costs up to \$25M
- Applications have not yet been announced. Likely to be announced any day and due in 60 days from announcement.
- NYSEFC Enhanced WIIA:
  - Eligible communities<sup>1</sup> can receive up to 50% of net project costs up to \$25M
  - Applications have not yet been announced. Likely to be announced any day and due in 60 days from announcement.
- BIL Grant:
  - Eligible projects can qualify for grant equal to 50% of project cost up to \$25M
  - Recent communication with NYSEFC is that only BIL bypass money may be available. We will still be applying.
  - Applications have not yet been announced. Likely to be announced any day and due in 60 days from announcement.
- NYSDEC WQIP Grant:
  - Project is eligible for grant up to \$10M
  - Applications due summer 2025 (not yet announced)
- Other Grant Opportunities:
  - USDA RD Grant
  - NBRC Grant
  - ESD Grant
  - CDBG Grant
  - STAG/CPF Grant
  - Micron
- E. NEXT STEPS:
  - 5/30/2025 – Submit IUP Listing
  - Summer 2025 (not yet announced) – Submit WIIA, BIL, WQIP, CFA and other grant applications for SOCRIS and Constantia Projects.
  - Summer 2025 - B&L and Oswego County will be arranging a meeting with Constantia to discuss development of an Intermunicipal Agreement before applications are due for a NYSEFC “Intermunicipal Grant” (IMG). The County’s SOCRIS project would be the initial target for the \$30M opportunity. Note – A project can receive either a WIIA or IMG.

#### **COUNTY LEGISLATOR:**

Mr. Reehil reported:

- The legislators have been working on the SOCRUS (Southern Oswego County Regional Interceptor Sewer) the SEQR resolution was passed at the last meeting.
- Oswego County will be holding their tax auction starting May 23<sup>rd</sup>- June 24<sup>th</sup>, this is an online auction only. If property owners are looking to keep their property out of the auction they have until June 1<sup>st</sup> to contact Oswego County to sign an agreement.

#### **PARK AND RECREATION:**

Mrs. Zehr told the board that they are in good shape for the start of the summer program, signups will be at the park June 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> with the start date of June 30<sup>th</sup>. New buoys were ordered and hopefully they will be put in by the end of the month. Mrs. Zehr received information that Constantia has been accepted for the second round of grant funding for the splash pad, if the Town could submit a letter of support that would be helpful.

#### **HIGHWAY:**

Mr. Whitney reported the following:

- ✓ Gave board copy of road improvement for this coming year, oil and stone will be used on some roads. Mr. Whitney wants to assure residents that it is a much different process from years in the past. There is not as much stone put on the roads. With the price of black top, using oil and stone is a must to keep the roads in good condition.
- ✓ Waiting on CHIPs funding number from the State, it’s projected to be the same as last year.
- ✓ Dumpster days were a success again this year, 20 dumpsters were filled. A little under \$2,000 in scrap metal.
- ✓ Trucks have all been switched over, one is still being repaired.
- ✓ Water has been turned on at the park, they hope to replace the wood on the playground border.

Discussion turned to mowing at the Fire Department located at 23 County Route 23, when the new contract was signed there was confusion about mowing, the commissioners thought the Town was going to plow and mow. Mowing was not put into the contract. With no further discussion, Mr. Chapman made the motion to authorize the highway department to mow the grass at 23 County Route 23, seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

#### **TUG HILL COMMISSION:**

Ms. Thompkins gave the following report:

- **NYS Tug Hill Commission MetroCount Program:** Now that the snow is gone, THC is once again offering its MetroCount traffic monitoring system to municipalities within the Tug Hill region. This roadside unit collects detailed vehicle data from selected road segments, providing valuable insight into traffic volume, flow, and speed patterns. The system is capable of producing comprehensive reports, including speed summaries, vehicle classifications (based on axle count), direction of travel, gap and headway analysis, and more. There is no cost for municipalities to participate. Tug Hill Commission staff will handle deployment, retrieval, and data analysis. The unit typically remains in place for about one week, after which staff will collect the data and deliver a full traffic report to the municipality. The final report may include traffic summaries, speed distribution histograms, and other tailored data visualizations. For more information, contact Christopher Barboza at [chris@tughill.org](mailto:chris@tughill.org)

- **New York Association of Towns**, in partnership with **SUNY Potsdam**, has launched a new workforce development initiative aimed at improving recruitment, retention, and professional skills within town governments. This program allows current local government employees and job seekers to earn microcredentials in specialized areas such as public sector grant writing and spatial data analysis using GIS. Microcredentials are short, focused courses that develop targeted skills. All offerings will be delivered online to accommodate working professionals, with course lengths ranging from six weeks to two semesters. This initiative supports the creation of a skilled, accredited workforce pipeline for local government careers.

**MRB Group and Hancock Estabrook** are offering a free annual training program to assist local governments, municipal officials, and planning and zoning boards. The next session will be on **Environmentally Speaking – The Nuts and Bolts of SEQR** May 22, 2025 | 6pm-7pm. New York’s State Environmental Quality Review Act impacts nearly every decision you’ll face as a community development player. Getting SEQR right is critical to addressing development projects—whether you’re working to advance a development, or to stop one that doesn’t align with your community’s value. This session will focus on the processes associated with SEQR review, and on what to do when you’re faced with challenging SEQR questions.

- New York’s **Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group (FSWG)** is hosting a public informational webinar for local government officials on May 7, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. This session will provide guidance for communities navigating energy storage development, with a focus on fire safety considerations, recent regulatory updates, and best practices.

The FSWG has been actively working to enhance safety standards related to lithium-ion battery energy storage systems, and will offer specific recommendations for local action during the presentation. Register [Here](#).

A Q&A session will follow the presentation. The webinar will also be recorded and posted on the [FSWG website](#) once available.

- **78th Annual School for Highway Superintendents**, sponsored by the Town and County Officers Training School, the Association of Towns of the State of New York, and the NYS LTAP Center – Cornell Local Roads Program, will take place June 2–4 at Ithaca College. Early registration is \$125 and is available through May 16. After that date, registration is only available on-site at an increased rate of \$165. On-site check-in and registration will be held on Sunday, June 1, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Attendees will automatically earn three highway credits toward the Association of Towns’ Certified Town Official Program. Participants in the NYS LTAP Center’s Road Master Program will also receive credit toward Road Master Levels III and IV when qualifying for their 5- or 10-year attendance awards.
- **Oswego County Becomes First ACT Work Ready Community in the Northeast:** Oswego County is proud to be recognized as the first ACT Work Ready Community in New York State—and the entire Northeast region! This achievement reflects our county’s strong commitment to developing a skilled, adaptable workforce that drives business growth and supports long-term economic development.

□ Learn more at: [Citiboces.org/ACT](https://Citiboces.org/ACT)

- **SOCRIS Update:** The County has signed an MOU with the Towns of Constantia, West Monroe, Hastings, Schroepfel, Volney, Village of Phoenix and the City of Fulton in support of the SOCRIS Project and grant applications. The County is preparing the environmental grant application to be submitted to the funding agencies by the end of May. The County has declared their intent to be lead agency for the purpose of SEQR and mail the notice to involved agencies. The County has engaged Bond Council and working on a bonding resolution. The next step is working with Oswego County IDA to identify possible grant funding agencies that relate to the economical aspects of the project. After that it becomes a waiting game for the announcements of the funding agencies which could be end of this year / beginning of next year.
- **Oswego County Comprehensive Plan Committee Update:** Oswego County is developing a new Comprehensive Plan to guide long-term growth and development across the region. This plan will focus on key areas such as housing, infrastructure, economic development, environmental protection, and quality of life. With Micron’s investment in Central New York, it’s more important than ever to plan for smart and sustainable growth. A Steering Committee made up of local leaders and community representatives has been formed to guide the process. Public input will play a critical role in shaping the plan’s goals and strategies.

Focus group meetings will be held May 19 in Schroepfel, May 20 in Minetto, and May 22 in Pulaski from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. A Specialty Focus Group will also be held on May 16 in Oswego for professionals

in business, infrastructure, and other sectors. Community Visioning Workshops are planned for June and October, along with a public survey launching this spring. All residents, business owners, and community leaders are encouraged to participate. Help shape the future of Oswego County by getting involved in this important planning effort!

- **NorCOG Business:**

- **Next NorCOG Meeting:** Join us at the next NorCOG meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Will be held at the Constantia Town Hall.
- **NorCOG & SRCG Joint Meeting & Annual Dinner:** September 25<sup>th</sup>

**VOUCHERS:**

Mr. Donegan made the motion to accept the following vouchers as listed on Abstract #5 Dated May 20, 2025:

|   |         |         |             |                |       |             |
|---|---------|---------|-------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| ▪ | General | 143-177 | \$21,720.82 | Sewer          | 15-16 | \$ 4,950.50 |
| ▪ | Highway | 62-89   | \$79,978.29 | Trust & Agency | 5     | \$17,947.00 |

Seconded, by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

**BUDGET TRANSFER:**

Mr. Moran read the following into the minutes:

Referring to general fund budget transfer sheet #1 for April 2025, account A1910.4 Insurance CE is over budget \$385.54. I therefore make a motion to address this over budget condition by transferring \$385.54 from contingency account A1990.4 to the above-mentioned account, leaving \$49,614.46 balance in contingency.

Seconded by Mr. Chapman.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

**SUPERVISOR:**

Mr. Chapman made the motion to accept the April 30th supervisor's report as submitted, seconded by Mr. Donegan.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Moran made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 15th town board, seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

**APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Mr. Chapman made a motion to accept the following reports as received:

Justice Simpson, Town Clerk, Code Enforcement

seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

Central Square Library, letter to encourage voting "yes" on the proposition regarding the library on the school budget.

**MINUTES RECEIVED:**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> planning and zoning meetings

**BOARD INITIATIVES AND COMMENTS:**

Mr. Chapman made the motion to adopt the standard workday and reporting resolution for elected and appointed officials seconded by Mr. Donegan.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**ADJOURN:**

At 6:34pm Mr. Donegan made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Poné.

Carried: Ayes: Moran, Chapman, Poné, Donegan

Respectfully submitted:

*Clare Haynes*

*Town Clerk*